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The work can be regarded only as an introduction to the modern experimental and biometric study of evolution, since much space is devoted to elementary principles, but it is a commendable effort to bring the newer work before a wide circle of readers.

J. A. H.

Notes.—*The origin of the cow-pea* has been investigated by Wight (U. S. Dept. of Agric., Bur. of Pl. Ind., Bull. 102. 1907.) who concludes that this legume is a native of India and the region northward to the trans-Caspian district. Its cultivation in that region is very ancient and it also extended to China at an early period. As early as the beginning of the Christian era it was known in Arabia and Asia Minor and was cultivated in at least one of the countries of southern Europe at about the same time. Its introduction into central Europe occurred much later and independently. It seems to have been introduced into the West Indies in the latter half of the seventeenth century and probably reached the mainland during the first half of the eighteenth century.

Statistical Methods.—Elderton¹ has published a small volume treating in detail some of the less generally known biometric methods. Biologists working with the more refined statistical methods will find it very helpful.

The presidential address before the section of Economic Science and Statistics of the British Association (*Rep. Brit. Ass.*, 76: 629–642. York, 1906.) is a plea for scientific method in statistical research. While primarily of interest to students of social problems, statistical biologists will be interested in some of the arguments.

Notes on Economic Botany.—The second volume of the handbook of sugar cane culture and cane sugar manufacture for Java (*Handboek ten Dienste van de Suikerriet-Cultuur en de Rietsuiker-Fabricage op Java*. Amsterdam. 1906) published by the associated sugar experiment stations of east and west Java, has just appeared. This elegantly illustrated volume is devoted to the animal enemies of the sugar cane and their parasites.

Takeushi (Bull. Coll. Ag. Imp. Univ. Tokyo. 7:465–468. 1907) discusses the chemical composition of the shoots of *Aralia cordata*,

¹Elderton, W. P. Frequency Curves and Correlation. 1907. London. Charles and Edwin Layton. xiii + 172 pp.

extensively used as food in Japan and now being introduced into the United States. Funatsu (*l. c.*, 469) gives the composition of a chrysanthemum flower used as food. Albahary (*Compt. Rend.*, 145:131–133. 1907) publishes analyses of the fruit of the tomato. Jaffa (*Yearb. U. S. Dep. Ag.* 1906; 295–312. 1907) considers the value of nuts as food.

Ybarra (*Smith. Misc. Coll.*, quart. iss. 3:428–457. 1907) has done a service to those interested in the natural history of America by publishing an annotated translation of a letter by Dr. Diego Alvarez Chanca, physician to the fleet of Columbus, dated 1494, relating to the second voyage of Columbus. The letter embraces observations made between November 4, 1493, and the last week in January 1494. Of course but little space could be devoted to botanical matters but several of the references to economic plants are of considerable interest.

J. A. H.

The difficulties of botanists in capitalizing specific names are illustrated in "The Flora of the Gulf Biologic Station," recently issued by the Louisiana Board of Agriculture. It refers to *Verbesina Virginica*, *Commelina virginica*, *Lycium Vulgare*, *Eleocharis Mutata*, etc. *Cassia Chamaecrista* of Gray's Manual is written *Cassia chamaecrista*. *Ipomoea pes-caprae* may be compared with *Panicum Crus-galli*. Uniform decapitalization would prevent such confusion. This "Flora," which records some twenty-six phanerogams not previously reported in Louisiana — a state which "is to-day almost unknown botanically" — is to be supplemented by further publications. Its author, R. S. Cocks, refrains from naming prematurely several new forms.